

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

MISSIONS IN NEW HEBRIDES.

IT must be taken for granted that the young readers of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN know something about the great missionary, John Williams, who has been called the "Apostle of the South Seas." At present, at any rate, we have not time to tell of him to those who are ignorant of his history, and all that we can say is, "Read and you will know."

Mr. Williams was very anxious to carry the Gospel to the New Hebrides, and for that purpose went with a good number of native teachers, whom he proposed to leave on the different islands in the group. This was in 1839, and it was in November of that year that that devoted missionary was murdered in Erromanga, very much in revenge for many murders committed by white traders who came to get sandal wood from the islands. In 1840 two teachers were left in Erromanga, but they had to be removed in 1841 on account of the great hardships they had undergone. In 1842 Messrs. Turner and Nesbit settled at Tanna, but after enduring great hardships, they had to flee for their lives, and got away safely to Samoa.

In 1848 the first Presbyterian missionary came to these islands. This was the

REV. JOHN GEDDIE.

He did not go either to Tanna or Erromanga, but to Aneityum, which, by looking at a map will be seen to be the most southern of the group.

Mr. Geddie was born in Banff, Scotland, and while but a little child was taken to Nova Scotia. His mother early dedicated him to the work of Christ, and he was in due time licensed to preach the Gospel, and was settled, while quite young, as a Presbyterian minister in Prince Edward Island. His mind, however, was greatly drawn towards the heathen, and he sought in every way to rouse the Church to which he belonged to take a part in the evangelization of the world. Insuperable obstacles seemed at first to be in his way. Even good men regarded his proposals as dreams, and his plans as impracticable. They spoke of them as such—as only the wild "schemes of Johnnie Geddie." He kept at it, however, in spite of all discouragements, and the indifference with which his proposals were received only roused him to greater effort, and filled him with a higher and holier enthusiasm. He did not strike the iron when it was hot, but he struck till he made it hot. He argued and urged till the most indifferent were compelled to listen, and till the most hostile had to acknowledge that there might be something in it after all. In 1843 Mr. Geddie appeared before his Synod with an overture, praying for the establishment of a new mission among the heathen. It was not thought much of, and was accordingly kept back till the last day of the meeting, when it was hurriedly disposed of by being sent down to the Presbyteries for consideration. Next year Mr. Geddie and his proposal got greater prominence. After a long debate, it was agreed, by a vote of twenty to fourteen, to grant the prayer of

the overture, and to go forward in dependence upon the help of God. Mr. Geddie was chosen first missionary, gladly accepted the office, and in due time, as we have said, landed with his wife in that island, which, through his instrumentality, was to be the scene of great and blessed Gospel triumphs. It is not to be understood that this particular island, or even this particular group had been fixed upon before Mr. Geddie left Nova Scotia. His was literally a pilgrimage of faith. He went, not knowing whither he went. He rounded Cape Horn, and went, in the first place, to the Sandwich Islands. Then he went to Samoa, where he sought the advice of the missionaries settled there. They suggested

THE NEW HEBRIDES

and the island of Aneityum, in that group, as a likely place, and thither, accordingly, he was taken, as we have said, in 1848. We cannot say more about Mr. Geddie and his work at present, but shall hope to do so in succeeding numbers of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. In the meantime will our young readers study the geography of those islands, and try to make themselves acquainted, as far as they can, not only with their history, but also with that of the many others which stud those southern seas? They will find very much in that history as interesting as can be found in the most attractive of romances, with the great additional recommendation of its being all true, and of its affording many very bright and very interesting illustrations of the trials and triumphs of the modern missionaries of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

TEN MINUTES' SERMON TO CHILDREN.

"Be ye kind to one another."—1. ph. iv. 32.

DID you ever notice the way in which a train of cars are fastened together? At the end of each car is a bolt which slides in and out a little way, to which is hooked another bolt, like it, on the next car. When the engine backs and the two cars come together, they do not strike with a hard *bump*, jolting the passengers out of their seats, but the two fastenings meet, each slides in a few inches, breaking the force of the blow, and the two cars come together easily and gently. These slides are called *buffers*, because they *buff* each other and save the cars from many a bump. Now, do you know that everybody can carry with him a buffer, which will help him to avoid hard hits with other people? The buffer is *kindness*. A kind word, spoken gently, even in answer to an unkind one; a kind action, seeking the good of another; above all, a kind heart, full of love, will make all around us friendly and fill the world with sunshine.

You remember how Joseph went out of his prison to become a prince. If he had moped and sulked in Potiphar's house, as he had some reason for doing, or had sat down in the prison, cross and snappish, do you suppose he would ever have risen to greatness? No, for all his ability, but for his kindness, and cheerful, helpful spirit, you and I would never have heard of his name. More than

one man since his time has found kindness useful in bringing him success.

Once a young man with very little money opened a small store in a new England city. So few people came in to buy his goods that he grew discouraged, and said to himself, as he shut up his store one Friday night, "If I don't have more customers to-morrow I'll give it up and go away." Just then a little girl came along, looked up at him, and said:

"Are you the man that keeps this store?"

"Yes," he answered, "this is my store; but it is shut and locked up now."

"Well," said the little girl, "won't you please open it again and sell me a spool of number seventy cotton? All the stores are shut up, and my mamma wants it to finish my dress to-night, so that I can go and visit my auntie to-morrow."

The young merchant could not refuse the child's pleading voice; so he unlocked the store, went in, lit his lamp, found for her the spool of thread, and took her six cents. She went happy on her way home; and the next day her mother came in with two other ladies, thanked him for his kindness, and bought some goods, as did the other ladies also, who had heard the story. Perhaps they told it to others, for more customers came in, and from that day his store was successful. Afterward he became very rich, and used to say, "I owe it all to that spool of cotton." But it was the kindness, more than the cotton, which won him friends and success; for who wouldn't rather buy of a kind, pleasant person than of one who seemed selfish and careless of others?

And kindness will overcome difficulties when harsh and severe treatment only increases them. Once—so runs a *old fable*—the Lord commanded an angel to destroy a great iceberg, giving him a thousand years for his task. He called together an army of men with pickaxes and shovels, and let them dig at the iceberg for five hundred years; but even then they had only made a hole in it, and it seemed as big as ever. Then he called for the storms to beat and blow upon it. For four hundred years more the rain and snow fell, and the north wind whistled around its crown, but it only grew the greater. At last the angel went back to heaven and said, "Lord, I cannot destroy this great mountain!" Then the Lord said, "I will shew you how to conquer it." So He called upon the sun to shine with warm rays upon it, and the soft south wind to breathe upon it; and soon the great mountain of ice melted away, and only shewed where it had been by the green meadows, all the greener because of its moisture. So, if you want to conquer an enemy, watch your chance, not to throw a stone at him, but to do a kind act or speak a kind word, which will melt him and make him your friend forever. That is the way that Christ wins us, by loving us, and blessing us, and dying in our stead; and even so way we, Christlike, win and save others.

QUENCHED fire underlies the richest growths of faith and usefulness.

HE who is most slow in making a promise is most faithful in its performance.

PURRY, faith and perseverance are the eternal conditions of successful prayer.